

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04316 281025Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 EB-08 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6462

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4316

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ENRG, JA, US

SUBJECT: PRIMIN, FONMIN COMMENT ON SUMMIT

REF: TOKYO 4247 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SINCE RETURNING TO JAPAN, PRIMIN FUKUDA AND
FONMIN HATOYAMA HAVE POINTED OUT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS
THAT JAPAN'S "MORE ACTIVE" POLITICAL ROLE WILL BE
WORLDWIDE RATHER THAN CONFINED ONLY TO ASIA. THEY
HAVE ALSO UNDERSCORED DIFFICULTIES THEY HAVE HAD AND
EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER IN NEGOTIATING US APPROVAL OF
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 04316 281025Z

JAPANESE REPROCESSING FACILITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE THEIR RETURN TO JAPAN, BOTH PRIMIN FUKUDA AND
FONMIN HATOYAMA HAVE SPENT SEVERAL HOURS PUBLICLY
FIELDING QUESTIONS RELATED TO WASHINGTON SUMMIT.
HATOYAMA HELD MARCH 24 PRESS CONFERENCE AND BOTH FUKUDA
AND HATOYAMA RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS IN TWO LENGTHY

SESSIONS OF UPPER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 25-26. QUESTIONING FOCUSED ON THREE MAIN AREAS: JAPANESE POLITICAL ROLE IN ASIA, SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA, AND NUCLEAR REPROCESSING.

2. AMONG FIRST QUESTIONS PUT TO HATOYAMA AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND FUKUDA IN UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE, WAS MEANING OF US CALL FOR "MORE ACTIVE" JAPANESE POLITICAL ROLE, PARTICULARLY IN ASIA. HATOYAMA SAID THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS, BUT WITHIN LIMITS OF JAPANESE CONSTITUTION, JAPAN SHOULD PLAY WORLDWIDE ROLE NOT

LIMITED TO PROVIDING ECONOMIC AID. FUKUDA SAID PRESIDENT DID NOT SAY JAPAN SHOULD PLAY LARGER POLITICAL ROLE IN ASIA AND OPINED THAT HE PROBABLY MEANT JAPAN SHOULD PLAY LARGER WORLD ROLE. THIS WAS NOT MEANT IN MILITARY SENSE, FUKUDA SAID, BUT RATHER THAT JAPAN, AS GREAT ECONOMIC POWER, SHOULD SPEAK OUT MORE ON WORLD ISSUES. FUKUDA DENIED FLATLY THAT ADDITIONAL AID TO ROK WAS INTENDED.

3. AFTER REPEATING ASSURANCES GIVEN HIM RELATING TO US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM ROK, FUKUDA WAS NONCOMMITAL TOWARD SUGGESTIONS OF JAPANESE DIALOGUE WITH DPRK; STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE ON KOREAN PENINSULA SO LONG AS NORTH-SOUTH TENSIONS PERSISTED; AND, WHILE URGING THAT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, DECLINED TO GIVE SPECIFICS.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 04316 281025Z

4. HATOYAMA SAID AT PRESS CONFERENCE FUTURE US-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS ON REPROCESSING WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY DIFFICULT AND JAPAN PLANNED TO HOLD EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH CONCERNED EC NATIONS. FUKUDA ELABORATED SIMILAR LINE, SAYING MOST OF HIS PRIVATE TETE-A-TETE WITH PRESIDENT WAS SPENT DISCUSSING REPROCESSING, THAT MATTER WAS NOT SIMPLE, AND HE COULD MAKE NO FORECAST OF FINAL OUTCOME.

5. HATOYAMA SAID GOJ WOULD REPORT FULLY SUMMIT CONTENTS TO "VARIOUS" ASIA NATIONS, STRESSING CONTINUING US CONCERN FOR ASIA. (DEPUTY FONMIN ARITA HAS SINCE DEPARTED ON TOUR OF ROK AND ASEAN STATES FOR THIS TASK.)

6. COMMENT. PRIMIN AND FONMIN WERE AT SOME PAINS TO RULE OUT NOTION THAT IN ITS "MORE ACTIVE" POLITICAL ROLE, JAPAN MIGHT ACT AS MILITARY SURROGATE FOR US IN ASIA, PARTICULARLY IN ROK. FOR THIS REASON, THEY STRESSED WORLDWIDE ROLE AND WORDS RATHER THAN ACTIONS

BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY WE BELIEVE, THEY DID NOT SHY AWAY FROM
NOTION OF MORE ACTIVE ROLE ITSELF. THEIR COMMENTS ON
REPROCESSING, WHILE COMPLETELY FACTUAL SO FAR AS WE
CAN JUDGE, HAVE HAD EFFECT OF INTRODUCING NOTE OF
REALISM INTO WHAT HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY SHRILL MEDIA
COMMENTARY HAMMERING ON IMPORTANCE OF REPROCESSING TO
ENERGY-POOR JAPAN.
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